

SANITIZED COPY*Cy Final.*

CAS MESSAGE SAIGON 1925

October 24, 1963

1. AT 0615 HOURS ON THE MORNING OF 24 OCT, LT COL CONEIN RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL AT HIS HOME FROM THE AIDE OF MAJ GEN TRAN VAN DON. THE AIDE INFORMED CONEIN THAT GEN DON WOULD BE TAKING AN AIRPLANE TRIP ON 24 OCT AND REQUESTED CONEIN TO MEET WITH DON AT THE VIP TERMINAL JUST PRIOR TO TAKE-OFF AT 0640.

2. AT TAN SON NHUT, GEN DON TOOK CONEIN ASIDE AND STATED THAT HE HAD MET WITH GEN HARKINS ON THE EVENING OF 23 OCT. GEN HARKINS QUESTIONED GEN DON WITH RESPECT TO THE LATTER'S REMARKS TO CONEIN ON 23 OCT. GEN DON CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD MADE THESE REMARKS. GEN HARKINS THEN STATED THAT HIS PREVIOUS COMMENTS TO GEN DON ON 22 OCT CONCERNING THE NON-DESIRABILITY OF A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT WERE ACTUALLY CONTRARY TO A PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE. GEN HARKINS ADDED THAT HIS STATEMENTS HAD BEEN INADVERTENT AND THAT HE WISHED GEN DON TO BE AWARE OF THIS.

3. GEN DON FURTHER STATED THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR HIM TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR HENRY CABOT LODGE AT 1700 HOURS

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By MMLC NARA, Date 5/10/95

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

ON THE EVENING OF 24 OCT. DON ADDED ON HIS OWN ACCORD AND WITHOUT QUESTIONING OR PROMPTING ON THE PART OF CONEIN, THAT HE WOULD CONFIRM TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE AND THE OTHER GENERALS DESIRED TO DEAL WITH CONEIN AND CONEIN ONLY IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THIS MATTER.

4. DON STATED THAT ALL PLANS HAVE NOW BEEN COMPLETED, HAVE BEEN CHECKED AND RECHECKED, AND IT IS CONFIRMED THAT THE NECESSARY UNITS ARE AVAILABLE AND WILLING TO JOIN IN THE COUP. THE COUP WILL OCCUR WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK. IN ANY CASE, NOT LATER THAN 2 NOV.

5. DON REQUESTED CONEIN TO MEET WITH HIM [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] AT 1530 HOURS 24 OCT FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF DETAILS OF THE PLAN.

6. THERE APPARENTLY IS SOME MISUNDERSTANDING, AS AMBASSADOR DOES NOT RPT NOT HAVE ANY MEETING SCHEDULED WITH DON 24 OCT OR ANY OTHER DAY. MOREOVER, THE AMBASSADOR FEELS IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO MEET DON TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT AT THIS TIME.

CIA Saigon Cable ~~1925~~ 1925
Oct. 24, 1963

[REDACTED]



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